

Who Are the Women of the Collective?



Camilla Angel

Camilla Angel is an award winning multi-disciplinary artist born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is the daughter of two Jamaican immigrants. She attended Howard University Business school before her passion for art led her to change majors. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in painting. Angel was a Yvette Craft Fellow from 2020-2022 at the Studio Gallery in NW, DC. She also won a residency at Otis Street Gallery in NW, Washington, DC in 2022. In 2023 she won a fellowship with the Infinity Program sponsored by Honfluer Gallery. Camilla's art is heavily influenced by her upbringing and culture. Drawing from familial experience and cultural tradition she began creating portraiture exploring multiple mediums and telling the story of her everyday life. She curated her solo, Mixed Emotions, which featured work that exhibited the multiple emotions of human interaction at Creative Saints Loft in 2022. She is currently working on a new body of work about the progressions & regressions of her current life. She is currently residing in Washington, DC.



Shante Bullock

Shante Bullock, a versatile artist, seamlessly blends the realms of painting, printmaking, and mixed media to craft compelling narratives. With an innovative approach, she skillfully employs children as symbolic vessels, exploring the interplay between authentic and artificial worlds. Bullock's creations, characterized by a harmonious fusion of realism and surrealism, offer poignant glimpses into everyday life. Through her evocative brushstrokes, she captures the essence of genuine human experiences, inviting viewers to reflect on the duality of existence and the delicate balance between reality and imagination.



Artise Fletcher

Artise Fletcher (she/her) is a multimedia visual artist, born and based in Washington DC. She weaves worlds and stories with synthetic hair - into tapestries, fashion garments, sculptures, and collage. She documents her woven work with video and film photography to create a multimedia experience for viewers. Fletcher was introduced to photography early on due to her parents love of documenting mundane and joy filled moments throughout her childhood. Her older sister frequently styled her hair in braids which introduced her to braiding and weaving. This early exposure helped her develop an individual perspective to share stories through visuals, and teach herself how to braid. Fletcher began documenting her friends with photography and video in elementary into high school. In 2011 she attended The Art Institute of Washington for photography and dropped out after 8 months. She immediately found a job and focused on increasing her income. In 2015, Fletcher discovered the art community in Washington DC and felt the spark to create again. Photography was the only medium she worked with during this time. Fletcher attended and documented art shows with her camera - immersing herself in the community with the motive to connect with other artists. Fletcher's health began to go downhill in 2016, later discovering her body was going through Topical Steroid Withdrawal. Due to the symptoms of TSW, Fletcher quit her job in 2017 and devoted her time to yoga and art as therapy. Movement and handcraft made a huge impact on her healing journey.



Artise Fletcher
(continued)

Fletcher began secretly weaving dresses in her bedroom with the free time she gained. Leading her into her first exhibition at "The Stew", a pop-up gallery showcasing her woven dresses and accessories with a portrait series titled "It's Just Hair". She continued to create and show work in group exhibitions afterwards. In 2019, Fletcher was granted an opportunity to showcase at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn museum in an exhibition titled The Salon, highlighting the black woman's experience with hair. In 2020, she had an artist talk and workshop at The Smithsonian African Art museum in their "Workshop Wednesdays" program. During the pandemic Fletcher joined a virtual focus group named "Kanealon Kronicles" led by Banji Chona, an "art-chivist" based in Italy. They discussed the impact synthetic hair had on the environment and black women's health. With this new found knowledge, Fletcher's perspective on her work and direction shifted - not only did she want to honor and liberate individuals, but also expand the conversation surrounding hair to a more community-based perspective. In 2022, she took the first step by collaborating with a synthetic hair recycling company named Tiwani Heritage, on one of the pieces in Fletcher's first solo exhibition Commemorative Strands. reinterprets African commemorative cloths, honoring individuals, political figures, occasions, and more. Hair is a symbol of identity, resistance, conformity, creative expression, and freedom. I'd like to challenge your reality and social norms of beauty, by creating a world where we're all celebrated for our differences and similarities.



Dany Green

Dany Green (b. 1994) is an abstract mixed-media artist living in Brooklyn, NY. Her art practice aims to bridge the gap between the literal and the imagined. Green grew up in the outskirts of Philadelphia, living in the small town of Ambler, PA. In high school, she was introduced to artist Isaiah Zagar's Magic Gardens while exploring Philly. The Magic Gardens are a courtyard and building covered in mirror, ceramic, and found objects. After visiting, Dany decided to attempt her own mosaic. In 2012, Green completed her first mosaic as a capstone project. The piece was made entirely with broken bottles and mirror on a plywood base. Green went on to develop her own process that pushes the boundaries of traditional mosaics. Her unique style stems from "coming in through the backdoor to mosaics"; referencing how she was initially introduced to the medium through an artist who utilized non-traditional materials in an unconventional way. As her practice evolved, she learned more about the ancient art form and began to weave it into her avant-garde approach. She is currently working on developing a new body of work exploring humankind's ancient and mystic relationship with the cosmos. She is interested in how myths and folktales have been used as means to understand the unknown.



Resheda Pullen Jireh

Growing up in Richmond, Virginia, Pullen Jireh had limited art opportunities. Her interest in art began to develop when her 10th grade art teacher required her to maintain a sketchbook of our own original ideas. It was the first time she was given space to express her love and observations of her own black girl experience in public spaces. She found that visual art gave her a space to express herself, while everywhere else required her silence. She earned her BFA at Virginia Commonwealth University, and went to Maryland Institute College of Art. Pullen Jireh has exhibited throughout Virginia, Metro D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Ohio and Illinois. In 2003 her performance sculpture piece, "The Revolution Don't Pay No Rent" received shocking reviews from the Virginia Commonwealth University Sculpture community. Her first Solo exhibit in 2004 "Three Fifths Remained Silent", explored images of black women, stereotypes, commerce and slavery. Shortly, after Haiti's devastating Earthquake in 2010, she began painting live for fundraisers and other events around the metro D.C. Area. She was the resident artist for Wednesday Verses from 2010-2017. She is currently the resident artist for Busboys and Poets. Most of her work now focuses on connectivity and joy. Presently, she continues to exhibit in museums and galleries, she teaches art for public and private organizations throughout Metro DC; She create arts education content for &Paint, her paint party business; and provides opportunities for communities to learn and create together.



Chantae Sudlow

Born in Brooklyn, New York to Jamaican immigrant parents, Chantae Sudlow moved to Maryland at age seven, curious to explore the world around her. Demonstrating an early interest and aptitude for artistic expression, Chantae studied Studio Art and Art History at The University of Maryland College Park, graduating in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Arts degree. While exploring multiple disciplines from 2007-2011, Chantae had an affinity and grew expertise as a painter, printmaker and photographer - utilizing these art forms to visually express abstract concepts and emotionally connect with a diverse range of viewers to explore and elevate her lived experiences. As an abstract artist, Sudlow's growing practice is inspired by prehistoric African art and principles of neoplasticism, cubism, surrealism and culture. She creates compositions that conjure, discuss and challenge the reality of her contemporary, social, and personal experiences. Sudlow's preferred mediums are printmaking, painting in acrylic on canvas and paper and photography - all necessary in visually documenting her perspective, sometimes where a paintbrush cannot. She currently lives and works in Maryland.



Joy Nutt

Joy Nutt was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Maryland and Colorado. She is a first generation American and her parents are from Trinidad and Tobago. Her parents recognized her talent and nurtured her journey by enrolling her in private art lessons. Joy studied higher level visual art in the IB program in high school and developed a love for portraiture in a variety of mediums. Joy attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. and graduated with honors in 2008 with a degree in Electronic Studio Art. Joy enjoyed traditional studio art classes such as ceramics, drawing, 2D and 3D concepts, painting, and photography. These studio courses were transformative to her practice and encouraged a love for craft and exploration. After college Joy started her career as an art teacher in D.C. She is a seasoned educator and enjoys helping students discover their artistic voice. The pandemic allowed Joy to have the time and space to pursue her personal art practice. She started JN Studio Art in response to a high demand for her vibrant and unique mixed media portraits. After a successful run of commission based work, Joy pivoted to abstract paintings. She uses found objects from her home environment to create patterns and textures. Her most recent paintings are an exploration of geometric quilt patterns with original fabric inspired patterns. Joy's art has been featured across D.C. and Maryland with exhibits at the National Institute of Health, Busboys and Poets, and in private collections.



Elizabeth Stewart

Liz Stewart is an African American acrylic painter from Aurora, CO. Her paintings explore Afrofuturism, Mythical Realistic landscape, and portraiture. She was inspired to create this series because of Covid. Having to lockdown and losing simple freedoms gave Liz a need to escape through art and create fantastical characters that have the freedom that she wishes she had. These characters are drawn from Dogon art and the mythology of the Dogon tribe in Mali. They believe that we are the descend from the star Sirius. Liz couples that with Christian iconography like the halo and some subjects are positioned after the subjects in Christian Byzantine artwork.



Candice Tavares

Candice Tavares is a self taught illustrator and wood artist born and raised just outside of Philadelphia, PA. Her art is a celebration of Black beauty, love and culture that highlights the rich history and diversity of black hair and skin complexion. She was encouraged to experiment with different mediums during Saturday morning art classes and introduced to woodworking while helping her dad build and fix furniture in his woodshop. Years later she was able to combine that knowledge and experience to develop a style of art that felt uniquely hers. Candice was inspired to create positive, emotionally captivating images of black women, men and families as a therapeutic outlet for the emotionally charged work she does as a palliative care pharmacist. She sees her art as an opportunity to challenge the negative narratives about blackness that are so prevalent within the healthcare system and media at large. Her art is intended to remind Black people of their inherent beauty and value and remind non-black viewers of their shared humanity with black and brown people through the common bonds of love, joy and longing.



Vanessa Villarreal

Vanessa Villarreal is a mixed-media visual artist based in Washington, DC, practicing primarily with acrylic paint and textile. Originally from Florida, Vanessa's affinity for creating started at the age of three and was sustained throughout her life, practicing an array of mediums, from crocheting to painting. After years of putting her passion for the arts on the back burner to pursue a career in medicine, she struggled with the idea of potentially giving up art and her art business completely for a career in Public Health. In January of 2022, she eventually decided to take a leap of faith, quit her job, and pause her studies at her Master program to pursue art full-time. Vanessa is currently learning and refining her artistry through the Infinity Program, organized by multi-disciplinary fine artist Zsundayka Nzinga. She is focusing on incorporating more textile/fabrics into her current works in progress, creating more multidimensional pieces reflective of her years of experience with fabrics and sewing in addition to painting. Her pieces serve as visual documentations of the Black experience in America and her own personal experiences, highlighting the joy, vulnerability, and humanity of Black people.